

# HALL & ASSOCIATES

1629 K Street, NW  
Suite 220  
Washington, DC 20006-4033  
Telephone: (202) 463-1166 Web: <http://www.hall-associates.com> Fax: (202) 463-4207  
Email: [ethomas@hall-associates.com](mailto:ethomas@hall-associates.com)

January 31, 2020

## **VIA FOIA ONLINE**

Regional Freedom of Information Officer  
U.S. EPA, Region 1 (OARM01-6)  
5 Post Office Square, Suite 100  
Boston, MA 02109-3912  
Facsimile: (617) 918-1102  
Email: [r1.foia@epa.gov](mailto:r1.foia@epa.gov)

## **RE: FOIA Request Regarding Communications with “Outside Experts”**

To Whom This May Concern:

This is a request for public records pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act (“FOIA”), 5 U.S.C. § 552, as implemented by the Environmental Protection Agency (“EPA”) at 40 C.F.R. Part 2.

## **Background**

EPA has indicated in various meetings and correspondence that the Great Bay Estuary is impaired by nitrogen and those nitrogen levels are precluding the restoration of eelgrass beds to historical levels. EPA has also stated that the maximum TN load to the system cannot exceed 100 kg-TN/ha-year as such loading precludes eelgrass presence in estuarine embayment. *See*, draft General Permit issued January 2020.

## **Request**

This request seeks all communications between EPA Region 1 and any “outside experts” (e.g., Drs Latimer, Valiela, or Cole) whose publications are being used as the scientific basis of the General Permit.

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Please contact the undersigned if the associated search and duplication costs are anticipated to exceed \$100.00. If the requested documents are withheld based upon any asserted privilege, please identify the basis for the non-disclosure.

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If you have any questions regarding this request, please do not hesitate to contact this office so as to ensure that only the necessary documents are duplicated.

Respectfully,

//s// Erin Thomas

Erin Thomas